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perpendicular to the pivot axis.

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54. The tool of claim 53, wherein the angle is on the order of 6 degrees.--

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 11-30 will have been canceled and claims 33-54 will have been added. Accordingly, claims 31-54 will be pending, with claims 31, 32 and 33 being independent.

Summary of the Official Action

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-32 over the art of record. By the present amendment and remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome, and respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Traversal of Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Over the US Van Der Lely

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 11-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being

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anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,050,519 to VAN DER LELY.

The Examiner asserted that this document discloses all the features recited in these claims including tools which have a ring portion and a mechanism which biases the tools against the rotor. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In as much as claims 11-30 have been canceled, Applicant submits that the rejection of these claims is moot.

Moreover, notwithstanding the Office Action assertions as to what this document discloses, Applicant submits that VAN DER LELY clearly lacks, inter alia, a mechanism for biasing the tools against the rotor, as recited in claims 31 and 32, and inter alia, each fixing end comprising a ring portion which is movably fixed to the rotor via an axle, as further recited in claim 32.

Applicant notes that there is entirely no disclosure to any of these recited features in VAN DER LELY. To the contrary, Fig. 2 of VAN DER LELY shows tools 25 which fixed to a rotor via flanges 23. It is noteworthy that the tools 25 do not move with regard to flanges. Thus, there is no apparent need to any biasing mechanisms. In contrast, Applicant's invention provides a biasing mechanism, e.g., plate 14, which biases the tools 1 against the rotor 12.

It is also clear that the tools 25 do not have a ring portion. To the contrary, the tools 25 are fixed to an internal opening of the flanges 23. Thus, there is no apparent need to

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provide the tools with ring portions. In contrast, Applicant's invention provides a ring portion, e.g., 2, which allows the tools to be mounted to the rotor 12.

Applicant respectfully submits that, for an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) to be proper, each element of the claim in question must be disclosed in a single document, and if the document relied upon does not do so, then the rejection must be withdrawn.

Because this document fails to disclose at least the above mentioned features as recited in amended independent claims 31 and 32, Applicant submits that this document does not disclose all the claimed features recited in at least independent claims 31 and 32.

Over the GB Patent to Van Der Lely

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 11-13, 15-26 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by GB Patent No. 2 128 461 to VAN DER LELY.

The Examiner asserted that this document discloses all the features recited in these claims including tools which are mounted to a rotor.

In as much as claims 11-30 have been canceled, Applicant submits that the rejection of these claims is moot.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above-noted rejections of the above-noted claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

New Claims are also Allowable

Applicant submits that the new claims are also allowable over the applied art of record. In particular, Applicant submits that claims 33-54 recite a combination of features which are not disclosed or suggested by the applied art of record. Specifically, Applicant submits that no proper reading of either VAN DER LELY document discloses or suggests, inter alia, a tool having an active portion comprising a lower space zone and an approximately planar portion having a sharp leading edge, wherein the active portion projects towards a direction of rotation of a rotor when the tool is installed on a rotor, as recited in claims 33-54.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of these claims and further requests that the above-noted claims be indicated as allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention as recited in each of pending claims 31-54. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the

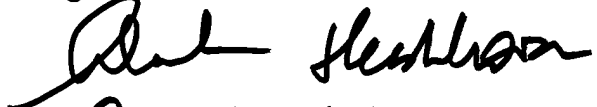
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present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Please charge any fees necessary for consideration of the papers filed herein and refund excess payments to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
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